

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 ACDA-07 /123 W
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R 252055Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5028
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2724

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, IS, XF
SUBJ: POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NEW ISRAELI
SETTLEMENTS

REF: A) STATE 200523 B) CAIRO 14116

1. WE BRIEFED EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAGGAG AUGUST 24 REGARDING OUR OPPOSITION TO HOLDING A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS TIME. HAGGAG RESPONDED THAT EGYPT IS NOT IN FAVOR OF A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE LATEST ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND THAT SYRIA ALSO IS HOLDING BACK FOR THE TIME BEING. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, THE ARAB GROUP REMAINS DIVIDED ON THIS QUESTION. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE ARAB GROUP WOULD MEET IN NEW YORK IN THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AFTER THE RETURN OF A NUMBER
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OF ARAB DELEGATES FROM THE LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. THE QUESTION OF A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED BY THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL IN CAIRO ON SEPTEMBER 3.

2. WE NOTE (REFTEL B) THAT EGYPT HAS DECIDED TO INSCRIBE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ISSUE ON UNGA AGENDA.

WHILE THIS MAY REDUCE PRESSURES FROM PLO AND RADICAL ARAB STATES FOR UNSC DEBATE, SOME MOVE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION REMAINS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. HAGGAG EMPHASIZED, AS HE DID IN DISCUSSION LAST WEEK, THAT ARABS ARE CHAFFING AT LACK OF EFFECTIVE US RESPONSE TO BLOCK ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES, WITH CONTINUING CRITICISM FROM RADICALS AGAINST EGYPT FOR NOT TAKING A STRONGER LINE.

3. ISRAELI UN MISOFF LAMDAN HAS TOLD US THAT, ON BASIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT AND WESTERN SOURCES, THE ISRAELI MISSION ALSO REGARDS THE ARAB POSITION ON A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE NEXT MONTH AS STILL UNDECIDED -- PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF ARAB DELEGATES, INCLUDING PLO OBSERVER TERZI, IN LAGOS. LAMDAN TOLD US THAT THE PALESTINE COMMITTEE TASK FORCE, IN A MEETING AUGUST 23, HAD DECIDED TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING SOME TIME AFTER SEPTEMBER 15. ISRAELI MISSION BELIEVES ARAB GROUP MAY CONSIDER UNSC DEBATE ON ONE OR MORE OF FOLLOWING ISSUES: (A) ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY; (B) IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT OF THE PALESTINE COMMITTEE; AND (C) REFORMULATION OF UNSC RES 242 TO EXPRESS NEED FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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